

Letter from Samuel P. Langley to Alexander Graham Bell, January 27, 1901, with transcript

COPY. Smithsonian Institution, January 27, 1901. Dear Mr. Bell: —

I mentioned in my letter to your Committee last year that there was not a considerable laboratory for research in Washington, and I might have added that I was greatly interested in seeing something done in this way, for it seems to be that an establishment of something of this kind is a primary step in the direction with which you are so much interested, and I also. The model for all governments is the recently founded Imperial Physical Technical Institution in Germany and I had placed the enclosed good description of it among the papers in the appendix to my present Report. (There was an article about it in "Science" taken from the one I enclose, which latter, however, is much more fully illustrated, and if you have not read it. I want to ask you to, and to be good enough to return it when you have done with it.) Whether it is possible to have similar laboratories distinct from our museums and connected with other subjects than physical research, I am hardly competent to say, but I hope it may be.

I did not express all my mind in our too brief talk the other day, but I want you to let me have a chance to do so a little later, believing, that I am sincerely with you in your wish, and that our only point of difference is as to the way of realizing it.

Very cordially yours, (Signed) S. P. Langley.